

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 769

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AMCONSUL LAHORE

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 5810

USIA FOR INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, PK (HABIB, MIRIAM)

SUBJ: PAKISTAN IWY DELEGATES VISIT US

REF: A. STATE 143138, B. ISLAMABAD 5550, C. ISLAMABAD 5784

IF CONTRACT AGENCY CANNOT GIVE JULY 7 DATE TO MRS. HABIB REQUESTED REF C, PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO MRS. CAROLYN HEINE FROM MARGUERITE COOPER KING CONCERNING POSSIBLE VOLUNTARY SCHEDULE FOR IVP GRANTEE FOR PERIOD AFTER IWY CONFERENCE. MRS. HEINE (SISTER OF MRS. KING) MAY BE REACHED IN LOS ANGELES AT UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WHERE SHE IS DIRECTOR FOR CONFERENCES OR AT HOME (213-663-0437).

1. AN ACQUAINTANCE FROM LAHORE, MRS. MIRIAM HABIB, IS ATTENDING IWY CONFERENCE MEXICO CITY ON BEHALF OF HER NEWSPAPER, PAKISTAN TIMES. ON BASIS EMBASSY RECOMMENDATION SHE IS BEING OFFERED USG GRANT FOR TWO WEEK STUDY-TOUR OF US BUT, BECAUSE OF HEAVY WORKLOAD IN THE DEPARTMENT, HER PROGRAM CANNOT BEGIN BEFORE JULY 15 WHEN SHE WOULD REPORT TO WASHINGTON TO WORK OUT A SCHEDULE AND BEGIN OFFICIAL VISIT. AS CONFERENCE WILL BE OVER ABOUT JULY 2, SHE WOULD HAVE PERHAPS A WEEK OR LONGER (FROM ABOUT JULY 5 TO 14) BETWEEN PROGRAMS. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO LODGE AND FEED HER AND ARRANGE FOR HER TO VISIT PROGRAMS IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA? PRESUMABLY SHE WILL BE SHORT OF CASH BECAUSE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESTRICTIONS HERE UNTIL STATE DEPARTMENT CAN

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PICK UP HER TAB AT MID-MONTH.

2. MRS. HABIB IS PAK TIMES "WOMEN'S CORRESPONDENT" AND WRITES LARGELY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY ON WOMEN'S AFFAIRS. SHE IS ALSO MEMBER OF RULING PAKISTAN PEOPLES' PARTY AND MAY BE PARTY OFFICE-HOLDER AT MUNICIPAL LEVEL. SHE IS HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, ARTICULATE, A SOCIALIST. SHE HAS VISITED CHINA AND SOME COUNTRIES IN EASTERN EUROPE AND HAS BEEN IN CLOSE AND FREQUENT CONTACT WITH FOREIGN SCHOLARS AND ADMINISTRATORS WHO HAVE SERVED AT PAK ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE (THE NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE ACADEMY) WHERE HER HUSBAND IS DIRECTOR. SHE WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IN PRACTICAL PROGRAMS FOR MIDDLE AND LOWER CLASS WOMEN, IN OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT OR AT HOME. US SYSTEM OFTEN PROMOTES WELFARE BY GOVERNMENT REGULATION OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND SERVICES AS CONTRASTED BY SOCIALIST SYSTEM OF OUTRIGHT OWNERSHIP/MANAGEMENT. PURPOSE OF HER USG - SPONSORED TOUR WOULD BE TO GIVE HER A PICTURE OF HOW THE AMERICAN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEM WORKS.

3. THROUGH YOUR CONTACTS WITH STATE COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN PERHAPS YOU COULD PERSUADE SOME WOMEN'S LEADERS IN LA AREA TO ESCORT HER OR MAKE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HER TO VISIT SOME PROGRAMS OF INTEREST. THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS ARE BROAD-BRUSH: THERE WILL BE TIME FOR ONLY A FEW ACTUAL VISITS AND YOU MAY DISCUSS STATE/

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR GENERAL WELFARE SUBJECTS OR SOMEONE AT LAW SCHOOL TO DISCUSS JUDICIAL PROBLEMS RELATING TO WOMEN AND HOME. THINGS WHICH COME TO MIND ARE GENERAL PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, HIGHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, BLUE-COLLAR AND WHITE-COLLAR JOB OPPORTUNITIES (AND PROBLEMS) FOR BOTH SEXES BUT EMPHASIS ON WOMEN. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE HER HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE SOME OF THE WORK OF MUNICIPAL/STATE/FEDERAL REGULATORY AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS (WHERE LA OFFICE AVAILABLE) DEALING WITH SAFETY, HOURS, WAGES. THERE ARE SOME GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS WE CONSIDER STANDARD WHICH ARE UNKNOWN IN SOUTH ASIA DUE TO SCARCE RESOURCES: GOVERNMENT-RUN EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE, WELFARE PAYMENTS, GOVERNMENT-SUBSIDIZED MEDICAL SERVICES, SOCIAL SECURITY, ETC. THERE ARE OTHER IMAGINATIVE STATE PROGRAMS YOU WILL BE FAMILIAR WITH WHICH WILL INTEREST HER: CHILD-CARE CENTERS, RE-EDUCATION FOR MIDDLE-AGED WOMEN RE-ENTERING JOB

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MARKET, INNOVATION IN DIVORCE AND SUPPORT LAWS. THERE MAY BE NON-GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS OF INTEREST LIKE THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AND CONSUMER-PROTECTION ASSOCIATIONS.

4. MORE GENERALLY, SHE WILL BE UNFAMILIAR WITH AMERICAN HOME LIFE AND WORKING CONDITIONS. PERHAPS A LOCAL OFFICE OF A LARGE LABOR UNION COULD SHOW HER AROUND A PLANT AND EXPLAIN HOW UNION WORKS FROM SHOP STEWARD UP TO TOP-LEVEL NEGOTIATORS. SHE WOULD

ALSO PROFIT FROM LOOK AT OUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM -- IN GENERAL AS WELL AS THOSE SPECIALIZING IN CHILDREN AND FAMILY. IF SHE COULD VISIT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OR STATE LEGISLATURE SHE COULD EXPLORE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT (IN CONTRAST WITH PAKISTAN'S SYSTEM MODELED ON BRITISH PATTERN) WHICH COULD BE MORE VALUABLE IF SHE COULD FOLLOW ONE ISSUE BEING CONSIDERED BY LEGISLATURE THROUGH ITS EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL PHASES OF EXECUTION.

5. SHE AND HER HUSBAND ARE INTERESTED IN CHINA. ALTHOUGH PAKISTAN HAS, TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO CENTERS OF CHINESE STUDIES, THE TWO HAVE PIONEERED AN ASSOCIATION OF ACADEMICIANS CALLED "THE CHINA STUDY GROUP" IN LAHORE. IF THERE IS A LOCAL BRANCH OF ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN STUDIES OR NEARBY UNIVERSITY WITH STRONG CREDENTIALS IN STUDY OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA I KNOW SHE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON RESOURCES IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ON CONTEMPORARY CHINA. I UNDERSTAND IN WASHINGTON SHE WILL MEET WITH NEWS MEDIA PEOPLE, ANOTHER OBVIOUS INTERST.

6. WE HOPE AND EXPECT THAT MRS. HABIB WILL BE ABLE TO STARY LONG ENOUGH TO TAKE OPPORTUNITY OF STATE DEPARTMENT-SPONSORED PROGRAM. IF THIS WORKS OUT, HOWEVER, DO YOU THINK YOU COULD TAKE HER IN OR HAND HER OVER TO SOMEONE ELSE WILLING TO DO SO ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS (GIVEN GREAT COST BY PAKISTANI STANDARDS OF HOTELS, RESTAURANTS AND TRANSPORTATION)? BECAUSE OF THE SHORTNESS OF TIME AND GREAT DISTANCE I HAVE ASKED DEPARTMENT TO CONTACT YOU DIRECTLY. IF YOU ARE WILLING THEY WILL PASS THE MESSAGE ON TO MRS. HABIB THROUGH OUR EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY WHILE SHE IS AT THE CONFERENCE THERE. I WILL APPRECIATE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO AND WILL PERSONALLY REIMBURSE YOUR COSTS OF HOSPITALITY.
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